



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID P. LITTELL
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Littell, Commissioner
FROM: Mark Hyland, Bureau Director
RE: ARRA: LUST Trust
DATE: March 9, 2009

The Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management will be responsible for the implementation of this LUST Trust Grant under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. The DEP work plan must strictly meet criteria of the LUST Trust Grant and must create employment opportunities and business activity in the local economy.

Specifically, a portion of the grant funds will be directed at motor fuel LUST remediation sites and proper closure of abandoned underground storage tanks (USTs). Funding provided under LUST Trust will be used for work that will be outsourced to private sector contractors, except for oversight, which will be provided by Department personnel. Five (5) existing LUST remediation sites where motor fuels have been discharged to the environment have been identified from the Bureau's Oil Remediation Priority List. All have contaminated soil and ground water. Some are also contaminating surface water bodies or pose a threat to indoor air quality in occupied buildings.

Nearly all of these sites are likely to be returned to commercial uses upon completion. Many of the projects we have identified are in Aroostook, Washington and Waldo Counties which have December 2008 unemployment rates ranging from 8.2 to 9.4%. One project in Brooks Village will be coordinated with a Maine Department of Transportation highway reconstruction project to take advantage of access to contamination under the highway that was previously inaccessible. This coordination will advance completion of both agencies' projects.

The second body of work that will be funded using LUST Trust economic stimulus monies will be the proper closure of abandoned motor fuel USTs in accordance with Maine's underground oil storage tank regulations (Chapter 691, Section 11). We have identified 39 abandoned tanks at 17 facilities that have been out of service for more than 12 consecutive months and have never been properly closed. All are in violation of the Department's UST regulations. These facilities have a history of reported discharges or are presumed to have had unreported discharges given their construction materials or operation history. Closure will consist of proper tank and piping removal, an environmental site assessment, submission of required notifications and registration amendment, and remediation of contaminated soils where needed and within the grant budget.

The total budget for the work described above is \$1.7 million.